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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,604	08/06/2001	Michio Komoda	027260-481	9506

7590

03/27/2003

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EXAMINER

LEVIN, NAUM B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2825

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,604

Applicant(s)

KOMODA, MICHIO

Examiner

Naum B Levin

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2003(Paper No.5).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to application 09/921,604 and amendment filed on 01/21/2003. Claims 2-20 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

1. Applicant canceled claim 1 and amended 2, 7, 9 and 10 by adding additional limitations. Thereby claims 2-14 now are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-and-~~17~~¹⁵-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. (US Patent 6,378,109).

Young teaches method of simulation for gate oxide integrity check on an entire IC including to eliminate glitch errors:

(15), (17), (18), (19) A circuit modification method of modifying a circuit by inserting one or more buffers into a predetermined wire located within the circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether a glitch error is caused in said predetermined wire by an aggressor comprised of one or more other wires (col.9, ll.10-20);

when determining that a glitch error is caused in said predetermined wire by an aggressor, determining a number of buffers/repeaters to be inserted into said

predetermined wire based on an amount of glitch to be caused in said predetermined wire by said aggressor (col.11, ll.57-61).

3. With respect to claim 15 Young lacks a method of modifying an IC by determining number of repeaters to be inserted in a victim wire based on amount of glitch.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to employ Young's teaching regarding the method of modifying the IC by inserting repeaters to eliminate the glitch errors and use it by determining number of repeaters to be inserted in a victim wire based on amount of glitch to improve efficiency of eliminating glitch errors.

4. With respect to claim 20 it would have been also obvious to a person of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made that replacing a driving circuit with another one having a higher driving ability may be achieved for example by inserting buffers/repeaters as discussed above by Young.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 2-14 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naum B Levin whose telephone number is 703-305-0144. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S Smith can be reached on 703-308-1323. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

N L
March 21, 2003



**VUTHE SIEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER**